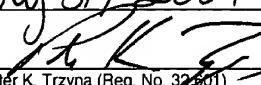


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed by  
depositing it with the United States Postal Service as first  
class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed  
to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington,  
D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

Date: July 31, 2001

Signed:   
Peter K. Trzyna (Reg. No. 32601)



PATENT

Paper No.

File: AIS-P99-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

AUG 08 2001

Technology Center 2100

Inventor : Daniel L. Marks  
Serial No. : 09/399,578  
Filed : September 20, 1999  
For : GROUP COMMUNICATIONS MULTIPLEXING  
SYSTEM  
Group Art Unit : 2765  
Examiner :

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Please enter the following amendment and reconsider the application in view of  
the amendment set forth below.

**I. Amendment**

**A. In the Claims**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) [Computerized human communication] A method for using  
a computer system to arbitrat[ing]e and distribut[ing]e communication over the Internet, the  
method [system,] including the steps of: